

Appl. No. 10/809,002
Amdt. dated Nov. 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of Aug. 15, 2006

REMARKS

If the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues in any of the claims now pending in the application, the Examiner is urged to telephone Edward M. Fink, Esq. at (732) 563-0440 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Claim Amendments

Claims 51-90 are presently in the application.

Lines 12 and 13 of claim 51 were noted as being redundant. The redundancy has been noted and obviated by amendment of the claim. Additionally, the word "are" on the last line of the claim has been amended to read "is".

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 81 and 82 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The use of the terminology "preferably a softener" has been deleted and the use of the word "it" has been clarified.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 51-80 and 83-90 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arentsen et al. During a telephone interview with the Examiner on

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October 31, 2006, it was agreed that by amendment of claim 51 to provide for the inclusion of language in the claim indicating that "a first and second mass was employed, each comprising a natural polymer" the reference would no longer be applicable.

Conclusion

In light of the telephonic interview and the modification of the claims, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and action to that effect is most earnestly solicited.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 51-90 are most earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter L. Michaelson
Peter L. Michaelson, Attorney
Reg. No. 30,090
Customer No. 007625
(732) 542-7800

November 1, 2006

MICHAELSON & ASSOCIATES
Counselors at Law
P. O. Box 8489
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701-8489

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **November 2, 2006** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Peter L. Meierhamer
Signature

30,090
Reg. No.